

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX,
RARS President

RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving! Our celebration was fun, but I ate too much! We drove to Michigan, visited with family, did some shopping, helped a high school classmate put up his 160 meter dipole antenna, and then drove home. After that trip, I need a vacation to get ready for the rest of the holiday season!

With regard to the holiday season, the RARS Annual Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 6. Following a short business meeting, including installation of our incoming officers and committee chairs, we will be entertained by the Encore Singers. Please don't forget to bring a snack to share with others! On the RARS website, there is a link to a sign-up page that should be used to let us know what goodies you will be bringing to the meeting. Please plan to attend the RARS Annual Christmas Party and don't forget to bring your family and children!

73, Karl W4CHX

Next RARS Meeting: December 6

7:30 PM: Christmas Party featuring the Encore Singers. Please sign up on RARS.org to bring a snack to share. We'll also be installing the 2012 RARS Officers.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

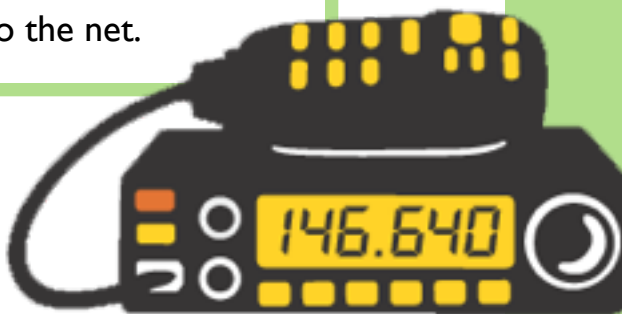
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

December Birthdays

Rick	K4RLE	12/1
David	KB8V	12/1
John	W2YBN	12/2
Randy	KE4PNT	12/6
Bruce	KC4UQN	12/9
Virginia	NC4VA	12/9
Frank	KA2FWC	12/12
Roger	KS4VX	12/12
Sam	KI4TRG	12/13
Ebb	W3EPA	12/13
Conner	KE4ZNS	12/15
Cliff	W4FT	12/17
Gizmo	KK4BVR	12/18
Kevin	KC4THW	12/18
Roger	W3EZR	12/18
James	KE6FNW	12/20
Bert	W4FMN	12/21
Michael	KK4EIB	12/27
David	KG4RIY	12/27
Lee	KJ4ULT	12/29
Dick	KD4ISC	12/31
Gerry	K4GCJ	12/31

October 2011

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 505
Traffic: 34/28
Minutes: 610
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 110
Minutes: 270
Sessions: 10

Upcoming Hamfests

12/3- Tampa Bay Hamfest
12/4 Palmetto, FL
<http://fgcarc.org/>

1/14 TechFest
Lawrenceville, GA
<http://www.gars.org/joomla/index.php>

1/20- Cowtown Hamfest
1/21 Fort Worth, TX
<http://www.cowtownhamfest.org/>

1/24 Winston-Salem FirstFest
Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.w4nc.com/>

1/27- Capitol City Hamfest
1/28 Jackson, MS
<http://www.msham.org/hamfest.php>

1/28 Winterfest - St. Louis Hamfest
Collinsville, IL
<http://slsrc.org/>

1/29 20th Annual TUSCO ARC Hamfest
Strasburg, OH
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/>

New RARS Members

Ken Barnhouse	KK4ETP
Mike Eckardt	KK4ETS
Mike Gabbert	K4AUR

Minutes of the October 18, 2011 RARS Board Meeting

Minutes by Charles Swindell WC4DCM

Present: John Snellen AI4RT, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Jack Foster N6UYB, Don Downs WA4AVU, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Candy Orr KJ4OBQ, Greg Seamsgrter KE4PAX, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: Marty Young W4MY, Chuck deCourt W3WZN, and Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX.

Apologies and/or emailed reports: Gary KN4AQ, Mary KG4OQA, Liz KO4CK, Joe WA4GIR, Virginia NC4VA, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): VP CJ KJ4OBQ inquired as to the status of the APRS equipment. Currently, RARS has 3 units, one of which is in need of tweaking and will be repaired shortly. These units will be used for the Raleigh Marathon on Nov 6th. The 146.64 repeater will be used for the data.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS currently has 278 members. We received \$275 from items donated to RARS and sold at the auction.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Secretary Charles WB4DCM reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): John AI4RT Public Service Director advised that the "Making Room for Turkey" event on November 20th will be the last public service event for the season.
 - b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report. Chuck W3WZN, nominee for the position of Public Information Officer, was present.
 - c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): Based on her email communication, the technician licensing class went very well and she will be writing an article for the Exciter about the class.

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- d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): No report.
- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Based on his email communication: “Here is an update on our repeater building at Bayleaf. Jeff AC4ZO, Jack N6UYB and I visited the building on Sunday. Jack had begun long neglected maintenance a couple weeks ago, and discovered that the building had some serious structural problems due to wood rot. His conclusion was that the building wasn't worth repairing. I asked Jeff to give us a second opinion, and he agreed. To replace the beams that were beyond saving would mean pretty much taking the building apart, removing the roof, and rebuilding it. That leaves us in the position of needing a new building. This was a pre-fab residential out-building. We don't have that option again because we can't move one in. There's a big fence and a lot of other buildings on the site. We need to explore options, but before we make any decision, I need to talk to our "landlord," American Tower..... Jack will be able to give you a report at the Board meeting tonight. I won't be able to be there”.
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): RARSFest Chair John AI4RT advised that the next planning meeting will be held on October 24th at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): No report.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): Based on her email communication, Mary KG4OQA reported, “The nets are fine. There are many new people checking in!”
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.
- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.
- m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): Jack N6UYB advised that the filter for the 146.64 repeater has been ordered and necessary supplies are available for installation upon receipt of the filter.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.

- o. RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): Based on her email report, Liz KO4CK reported, "The VE team held an exam session 10/8 after the tech class. As is always the case after a RARS class, it was very successful. Of the 23 people who took exams; 2 went from no license to general, 16 passed the tech exams and five did not pass. Of those five, two were youths and one was a walk-in who did not attend the class. RARS does an exceptional job of teaching. Upcoming are exams at the November meeting and at the JARSFest in Benson."
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): No report.

7. Old business:

- a. RARS White Paper (CJ KJ4OBQ): CJ KJ4OBQ reported that the "white paper" had been distributed to the Board and comments have been received. After extensive discussion, it was decided that Karl W4CHX and CJ KJ4OBQ would finalize the document and bring it back to the Board for final approval.

8. New business:

- a. Repairs needed for building at Bayleaf repeater site (Jack N6UYB): Jack N6UYB provided a brief discussion on the extent of damage and deterioration to the building at the Bayleaf site. The building is 10x10 ft and was installed about 1988 or 1989. For whatever reasons, it has not been maintained and now needs extensive repair or replacement. Therein followed a lengthy discussion about type of replacement construction, costs, electrical hookup, permission of the landlord, building permits, and other issues. Finally a motion was made by Jack N6UYB that: the Bayleaf site is in urgent need of extensive repairs or be replaced; that it must take priority over the 145.13 repeater project; and, that we should move the \$4,000 allocated to the 145.13 project to the Bayleaf project, on an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded by CJ KJ4OBQ. The motion was passed.

9. Any other business: Steve KJ4BX advised that he was speaking on behalf of the First Alliance Church where RARS holds its regular monthly meetings. The Church is looking to increase rent on the use of its facilities. Currently RARS is paying \$300 every six months for use of the Fellowship Hall, including the kitchen and one class room. After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Charles WB4DCM that: Steve KJ4BX negotiate with the church for \$150 per month for the Fellowship Hall and kitchen for 12 first Tuesdays; 4 Tuesdays for a class room; that we will trade

locations to facilitate the church as needed; rent a class room on Saturday mornings, as needed, for \$37.50; and that this is to be a multi-year agreement. The motion was seconded and passed.

10. Board member's comments:

- a. CJ KJ4OBQ raised the issue of the welcome letter that RARS is considering sending out to newly-licensed amateur radio operators inviting them to visit RARS. What is needed is someone to take on the project. The issue will be brought up at the next meeting.
- b. Karl W4CHX advised that the HF bands are improving. Ten meters is opening up. DX is great. Some DXpeditions are using PayPal for QSL'ing.

11. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Minutes of the November 1, 2011 RARS General Meeting

Minutes by Charles Swindell WC4DCM

1. Guests (pre-meeting announcement): Karl W4CHX introduced the guest attendees: Floyd Harding, John Towlen KK4EWS, Sebastian Boonstra, Stephen Foxworth, Ken Barnhouse, and Tina Medlin. Members were invited to make the visitors feel welcome

2. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Karl W4CHX. There were 60 members and guests present.

3. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on October 4, 2011 were approved as written.

4. Vice President's report (C J Orr KJ4OBQ: VP CJ KJ4OBQ invited everyone to attend the December meeting. We have the Encore Singers. Please bring some food item to share. In addition, she announced that RARS has developed a welcome letter for recently licensed amateurs and has a system to identify those recent licensees. What is needed is someone to take on the project.

5. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we have 282 members including 34 new members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.

6. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):

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1.RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (11/8/11), 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Ave (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (11/8) for any update information.

2.RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (11/15/11), 7:00PM in a new location this month. The meeting will be at the Internal Medicine Associates of Raleigh, the medical office of Dr. Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX, which is located at 3850 Ed Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27612. Any member of RARS is welcome to attend. For further information, please contact a RARS Board member.

3.After meeting gathering: Depending on the time of the program completion: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).

4.Upcoming hamfests: Stone Mountain Hamfest, Lawrenceville, GA (11/5-6); South Florida Hamfest, Delray Beach, FL (11/5); Montgomery ARC Hamfest, Montgomery, AL (11/12); N. Central TX Emerg. Comm. Hamfest, Azle, TX (11/12); and, JARSFEST, Benson, NC (11/20).

5.Additional guests: Mike Gabbert, K4AUR

7. Elections: Chuck K4HF Chair of the Election Committee announced the committee's recommendations for club officers as follows: President Karl Bowman W4CHX and Secretary Bob Chew KI4YXM. Board members for one year terms: Public Service Director John Snellen AI4RT, Public Information Officer Chuck De Court W3WZN, RARS 2012 Hamfest Chair Jon Snellen AI4RT, RARS Exciter Editor Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, RARS Net Manager Mary Holschneider KG4OQA, At-large Director Don Downs WA4AVU, At-large Director Jack Foster N6UYB, At-large Director Ken McEwen KI4OTO, FM Repeater Chair Karl Bowman W4CHX, W4DW & W4RNC Trustee Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA, and RARS Web Master Hank Montgomery K4HM. Committee Chair persons as follows: RARS Hospitality Chair Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, RARS 2012 Field Day Chair Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, and RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators Liz & Joe White KO4CK & WA4GIR resp. Following the reading of the names, the floor was opened for nominations. Jack Foster N6UYB was nominated for FM Repeater Chair. However, he withdrew his name. There being no other nominations, the slate of officers was approved as presented.

8. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

1.Virginia NC4VA advised that a Technician Class of 23 students had just been completed on October 8th. Virginia specifically thanked those individuals that had

(Continued on next page)

assisted with the class. Further she advised that ARRL had graduation certificates and packets of “stuff” for the students. She then read the names and new call signs of the students.

2. Gary KN4AQ FM Repeater Chair discussed the intermodulation problem that 146.64 repeater had experienced over the past few years but more intensely in the past few months. The potential problem was identified and a filter was put in place thanks to the help of Jack N6UYB and Charles WA3UTC. The next issue was getting the 145.13 repeater operational in the RTP area. It will go on a tower located near NC 54 and Page Road. There is some tower work that needs doing that we cannot do ourselves. The final item was the building at Bayleaf that houses a repeater. The building is in poor condition and in need of replacement. That will require some coordination with the tower owner. Karl W4CHX commented about the RARS Board has begun budgeting for these upgrades and repairs; the RARS Board will keep the membership informed about, and request approval of, budget matters at the proper times.

3. Chuck K4HF advised that the QCWA Chapter 126 is holding its quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 3rd at the Yarborough's Steak House in Lexington. The program will be about WWII and the Berlin Airlift and ham radio involvement. Visitors are welcome.

4. Don WA4AVU announced that there would be another APRS seminar sometime in January, 2012 and that he has set up a mail list of anyone interested in APRS.. If interested, please send him an email at wa4avu@arrl.net.

9. Any other business: There was no other business to come before the meeting.

10. Drawing: The drawing was won by K4BYN.

11. Program: VP CJ KJ4OBQ then introduced John Snellen AI4RT our Public Service Director. John then went through the what, when, where, why, and how of public service. He explained what a SAG vehicle was (Supply and Gear) and the functions of the NCS. Following his presentation, Gary KN4AQ then took the stage and made a short speech in support of public service projects. VP CJ KJ4OBQ made the comment that you just have to do it.

12. Final comment: Jack N6UYB announced that at Field Day 2011 RARS was number 1 in class 9A; number 2 overall in NC; and, number 8 overall in the country.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM by Karl W4CHX.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The Wake County ARES

Net meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

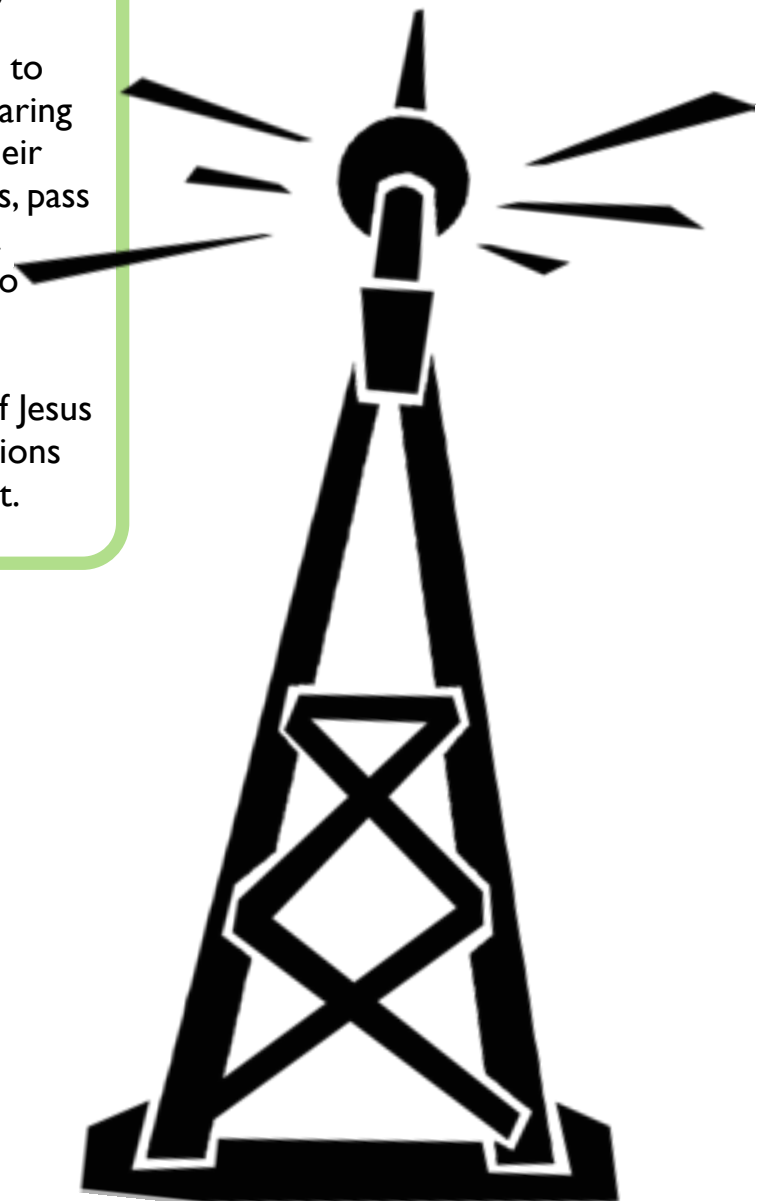
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

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